

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 200993

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS STATE 200993

NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO MEETING IN GENEVA, NOVEMBER 26 - DECEMBER 3,
TO REVIEW APPLICATION OF FLORENCE AND BEIRUT
AGREEMENTS

REF: CL/2296

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PAGE 02 STATE 200993

PLEASE CONVEY FOLLOWING INFO TO DG, IN REPLY TO REF LETTER:
US DEL TO SUBJECT MEETING, WHILE NOT YET NAMED, WILL
DEFINITELY INCLUDE SPECIALISTS IN RELEVANT FIELDS. POSITION
THAT US ENVISAGES TAKING AT THE MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

A. ANY CHANGES THAT MAY BE CONTEMPLATED IN THE
FLORENCE AGREEMENT MIGHT BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH A
PROTOCOL RATHER THAN BY REVISING THE ENTIRE AGREEMENT;

B. AT PRESENT THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT PERCEIVE
A NEED FOR CHANGING, AMENDING, OR ADDING A PROTOCOL
TO THE BEIRUT AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, THE UNITED STATES
SUGGESTS THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IF COLLATERAL UNDER-
STANDING AMONG EXPERTS COULD BE REACHED ON THE
ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN RECENTLY INVENTED AUDIOVISUAL
MATERIALS;

C. ANY VIABLE PROPOSAL CONCERNING THE FLORENCE AGREE
MENT THAT WOULD ENHANCE THE FREE FLOW OF EDUCATIONAL,

SCIENTIFIC, AND CULTURAL MATERIALS WILL BE WELCOMED BY
THE UNITED STATES;

D. THE UNITED STATES SUGGESTS A REVIEW OF ANNEX D
TO THE FLORENCE AGREEMENT, WHICH MAKES PROVISION FOR DUTY
WAIVERS FOR IMPORTS OF SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS AND
APPARATUS, AND RECOMMENDS INCLUSION OF AN ITEM ON THE
AGENDA OF THE MEETING DEVOTED TO DISCUSSION, REVIEW AND
COMPARISON OF PROCEDURES ADOPTED BY SIGNATORY NATIONS
FOR IMPLEMENTING THIS ANNEX. AS THE BASIS FOR DISCUSSION,
WE SUGGEST THAT PARTICIPANT COUNTRIES BE INVITED TO PRE-
PARE A REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ANNEX D IN THEIR
RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES;

E. THE UNITED STATES RECOMMENDS THAT THE MEETING
SEEK WAYS TO IMPROVE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES THAT
PRESENTLY MAY HAMPER THE FREE FLOW OF ELIGIBLE ITEMS IN
MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD. IT IS REALIZED THAT PROBLEMS
AT BORDER CROSSINGS ARISING FROM MISUNDERSTANDING AND
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PAGE 03 STATE 200993

MISINFORMATION ABOUT ELIGIBLE MATERIAL CANNOT BE RESOLVED
BY UNESCO, BUT ONLY BY THE CONTRACTING STATES. IN THIS
CONNECTION WE BELIEVE THAT UNESCO HAS A VERY IMPORTANT
ROLE TO PLAY IN PUBLICIZING THE AGREEMENTS AND IN
PROVIDING CONTRACTING STATES WHICH REQUEST SUGGESTIONS
AS TO APPROPRIATE FORMS, REGULATIONS, AND IDENTIFYING
MATERIALS;

F. FINALLY, THE UNITED STATES WILL RECOMMEND THAT
THE GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS CONSIDER MEANS TO ATTRACT MORE
COUNTRIES TO BECOME CONTRACTING PARTIES TO BOTH AGREEMENTS.
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